

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA  
August 13, 2018**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, August 13, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the School Administration Building. Ms. Victoria Proffitt, Chairman, presided.

**The Call to Order**

Ms. Proffitt called the meeting to order. She welcomed visitors to the meeting and informed them that a printed agenda for the meeting was available.

**Roll Call**

Dr. Jean Infantino called the roll and recorded attendance as follows:

Present:           Mr. Samuel L. Boone, Jr.  
                      Mr. C. Jeff Bunn  
                      Dr. Patricia Y. King  
                      Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr.  
                      Mr. Harry A. Murphy  
                      Mrs. Christie New Craig  
                      Mr. Michael J. Woods  
                      Mrs. Colleen C. Leary, Vice Chairman  
                      Ms. Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman

Also present were Dr. Jared A. Cotton, Superintendent; Dr. Jacqueline C. Miller, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Dr. Anita B. James, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Victoria Lucente, Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Finance; Ms. J. Paige Stutz, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; Dr. Alan L. Vaughan, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and School Services; Dr. Jean A. Infantino, Executive Director of Administrative Services/Clerk of the Board; Mr. Robert J. Barry, Attorney; and Mrs. Darlene N. Gorman, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Dr. Cotton had no amendments to the agenda, but said he would need a closed session for two student matters, four real estate matters, two legal matters, and one procurement matter, the disclosure of which might adversely affect the school division's bargaining position, and one personnel matter. Mr. Murphy moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mrs. New Craig seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

## **Closed Session**

Ms. Proffitt asked Mr. Barry to prepare the language for the Board to go into closed session. Mr. Barry stated that the motion should read as follows:

“The Board convened in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, for consideration of two student matters, four real estate matters, two legal matters, and one procurement matter, the disclosure of which might adversely affect the school division’s bargaining position, and one personnel matter.”

Mr. Murphy moved that the Board go into closed session as provided in the Code of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Mrs. New Craig and approved with all Board members present voting yes.

## **Reconvene in Open Meeting**

The meeting reconvened in open session. Mrs. Leary moved the record show that the only items discussed in the closed meeting were those specifically cited in the motion to convene into closed session. Mr. Bunn seconded the motion, which passed with all Board members voting in favor of the motion.

Dr. Cotton recommended the expulsion of student #1 and student #2 under the conditions discussed. Mrs. New Craig moved to approve the superintendent’s recommendation. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion, which passed with all Board members voting in favor of the motion.

## **Items Resulting from Closed Session**

The Superintendent recommended the following appointment (the effective date will be determined to ensure appropriate support at Western Branch High School):

1. Mrs. Alexandria N. Taylor, from assistant principal, Western Branch High School, to supervisor of art and foreign language, Instructional Services Center

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the recommended appointment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Leary and passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion.

Listed below is an individual selected to fill an Assistant Principal I position for the 2018-2019 school year:

1. Deep Creek High School – Mr. Craig W. Daniel (former middle school English teacher)

## **Invocation**

Pastor Phillip Hughes, Restore Pastor at Western Branch Community Church, gave the invocation.

## **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Mr. Harry A. Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **Clerk's Items**

None

## **Hearing of Citizens**

Mrs. Fawne Whitehurst, 80 King George Quay, Chesapeake, VA 23325, spoke about the gas pipeline and the safety of our children.

Mrs. Ethel Mitchell, 2128 Rock Creek Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23325, spoke about child endangerment.

Mrs. Mary Lou Burke, 945 Hollywood Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320, spoke about the Southland Connect Pipeline.

Mrs. Alma White, 2428 Rock Creek Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23325, spoke about the pipeline and the risk it presents to our students and surrounding community.

## **Unfinished Business**

**Continuation of Board Reorganization:** Annually, the chairman appoints School Board members to various bodies where the Board member represents the School Board and votes on behalf of the School Board. The chairman made the following appointments to regional governing boards and committees.

Chesapeake Public Schools Educational Foundation Board of Directors:  
Ms. Victoria L. Proffitt and Mrs. Colleen C. Leary, representatives

Governor's School for the Arts: Mr. C. Jeff Bunn, representative, and Mrs. Christie New Craig, alternate representative

Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs: Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., representative, and Mr. Samuel L. Boone, Jr., alternate representative

WHRO Education Advisory Council: Ms. Victoria L. Proffitt, representative

VSBA Delegates to the Annual VSBA Convention: Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., delegate, and Mr. Michael J. Woods, alternate delegate

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded by Mrs. New Craig and passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion. The Chair noted that Board Members also serve on other committees and groups and reported the following:

ACCESS College Foundation: Patricia Y. King, MD, representative, and Mr. Harry A. Murphy, alternate representative

Chesapeake Public Schools Special Education Committee:  
Mr. Samuel L. Boone, Jr. and Mr. Harry A. Murphy, parent representatives

Chesapeake Youth Committee: Mr. Michael J. Woods, representative

City's School Health Advisory Board: Patricia Y. King, MD, representative

Student Wellness Advisory Board: Mr. Samuel L. Boone, Jr., representative

**CIP Redirect Request:** Dr. Cotton introduced Ms. Lucente, assistant superintendent for budget and finance, who reported that the school division has a remaining total of \$3,912,934.96 from various completed capital projects available for use for other capital projects. A list of these additional capital projects is included in BoardDocs. The use of these funds must be redirected by City Council before it can be utilized by the school division for other projects.

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the CIP Redirect Request to City Council. Mrs. New Craig seconded the motion, which passed with all Board members voting in favor of the motion.

## **New Business**

None

## **Consent Agenda**

The chairman requested approval of the consent agenda. Items included the following:

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- B. Bids
- C. Utility Easement for B. M. Williams Primary School
- D. Deed of Easement and Maintenance Agreement for B. M. Williams Primary School
- E. Right of Way Agreement for Great Bridge Primary School
- F. Religious Exemptions from Compulsory Attendance
- G. Religious Exemptions from Compulsory Attendance
- H. Religious Exemptions from Compulsory Attendance
- I. Department of Human Resources – Personnel Report

Mr. Mercer moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Leary seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent made the following announcements:

1. There are three community, "Meet and Greet" events remaining on the following dates: August 14, 2018, at 9 a.m. at Western Branch High School, August 21, 2018, at 9 a.m. at Deep Creek High School, and the final "Meet and Greet" will be held on August 23, 2018, at 5 p.m. at Oscar Smith High School.
2. Summer school graduation is scheduled for August 16, 2018, at 7 p.m. at Indian River High School.
3. The new teacher reception will be held on August 23, 2018, at Indian River High School. There will be a brief program in the auditorium at 8 a.m. with a reception following in the cafeteria from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
4. The first day of school visitation schedule is provided for Board members in BoardDocs. This schedule contained the names of staff members who will accompany Board members and the schools they will visit.
5. Employees will receive an email communication this week about two open enrollment periods needed for the change in the plan year. Details about the dates and the processes will be outlined in these communications. The first enrollment period will take place from August 28, 2018, through September 7, 2018, for the extension of the current plan year and open enrollment for the new January plan year will take place in late September through mid-October.
6. A draft copy of the agenda for the August 27, 2018, Board planning meeting was provided to Board members at their seats. Board members are to contact the superintendent if there are any amendments or additions to the draft agenda. The superintendent also reminded Board members of the upcoming planning meeting on October 4, 2018, and asked Board members to share any suggested topics with either him or Dr. Infantino.

**School Improvement Update:** As required by a Memorandum of Understanding between Chesapeake Public Schools and the Virginia Department of Education, Dr. James introduced Ms. Diane Watkins, Director of Assessment and Accountability, who provided an update on our projected accreditation status based on preliminary data released by the VDOE. The state will release more detailed information in their press release on August 22, 2018. She reported this was a school year of transition, meaning that schools could receive accreditation using the old system or the new system (whichever was more advantageous). Ms. Watkins was happy to report that 96% (43 of 45) of our schools are accredited, no schools were denied accreditation, our early intervention efforts were successful, several of our schools received national recognition, and there was an increase in college and career readiness. Additional detailed information is available in BoardDocs.

**School Safety Update:** Dr. Cotton introduced Dr. Jacqueline C. Miller, assistant superintendent of student services, who provided information regarding school safety. Ms. Paige Stutz, assistant superintendent for operations, shared the details of \$2 M appropriated from the city to be used for safety and security measures. Additional details are available in BoardDocs.

Dr. Miller reviewed various information including the development of a school safety taskforce, our mission statement, a snapshot of our school division, infrastructure and procedural recommendations, school safety training sessions, and the hiring of a new school safety supervisor.

Mrs. Leary questioned Dr. Miller regarding her concern for school safety officers in our elementary schools. Dr. Miller stated that administrators in our elementary schools can contact safety officers in our middle and high schools. She is also pursuing a grant that could possibly help with the cost of hiring additional school safety officers. Mrs. Leary also asked how the division was going to address the safety issue regarding the new pipeline being installed near some of our schools. Dr. Miller will research and investigate safety issues that could occur due to this project.

Mr. Boone suggested making state police officers part of our safety process. Dr. Miller will reach out to the state police association.

### **Board Member Items**

Mr. Woods asked if easements were given near our schools regarding the installation of the new gas pipeline and whether easements were granted by the state or by the city. Dr. Cotton noted that Ms. Stutz has been in contact with community members and will share more information with Board members regarding this pipeline.

Mr. Murphy thanked his colleagues and our educational family for their support and well wishes after his recent knee replacement surgery in June.

Mrs. Leary enjoyed attending many of the “Meet and Greet” sessions with Dr. Cotton, along with Ms. Proffitt, Mr. Mercer, and Mr. Bunn. She also gave a shout out to all the administrators and teachers for our exceptional SOL scores. She also thanked Ms. Watkins for the detailed information she provided regarding these scores and all of her hard work. She also thanked Dr. Porter and Dr. Hunley-Stukes for their hard work preparing our middle and high schools students for the future.

Mr. Bunn reported that he and Ms. Proffitt attended the RU Ready Enrollment Event on August 4, 2018, at Oscar Smith Middle School which was coordinated by Mrs. Jacque Tate. It was a wonderful event to help students prepare for school enrollment, and it certainly benefited our community. He thanked Mrs. Tate and her team for their hard work and also all of the vendors who also participated in this worthwhile event.

Ms. Proffitt also enjoyed attending the RU Ready Enrollment Event and noted an increase in community participation this year. She also has enjoyed attending all of the community “Meet and Greet” events with Dr. Cotton. She thanked Mr. Jeff Bunn for his past leadership as Chairman of the School Board.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

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Jean A. Infantino, Ed.D., Clerk

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Victoria Proffitt, Chairman